
T H E
C R I S I S.

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Resistance to Tyrants and
the Instruments of Tyranny is
Justifiable, and Warranted, by all
the Laws of GOD and MAN.

To the P E O P L E.



T a juncture like the Present, when the National reputation of BRITAIN; as well as her absolute Safety stands tottering on the brink of Destruction; when LIBERTY and FREEDOM, the great Pillars of the Constitution, are, by Force and Fraud undermined, and tumbling into Ruins; when the BLOODY Sword of Tyranny is drawn against *America*, and soon to be plunged into the Bowels of her innocent Inhabitants; when the present Sovereign, aided by a despicable Junto, the REBEL, out cast, and refuse of Scotland, and a Parliament not returned by the free Suffrages of the People, are rioting with IMPUNITY on the Spoils of an insulted powerful Kingdom; when they, by cruel Oppression, have spread Terror and CIVIL WAR, in every Part of the British Empire; when they have destroyed or suspended her Trade, and sapped the Credit of Public Security; when the most iniquitous and unjust Laws are Daily passed to curb the Spirit, and bind in Chains, the Hands of a BRAVE and FREE PEOPLE; when *St. James's* is made the Slaughter House of *America*; when the Sovereign is become a national Executioner, and for a Scepter, carries a BLOODY KNIFE; when by a most Scandalous and Shameful profusion of the Public Money, we are hourly Robbed
and

and Plundered, to answer all the Purposes of King-Craft and Villainy; when new Taxes are Daily imposed upon the People in time of Peace, to the almost intire Ruin of the State; when the Minions of Despotism are increasing the Land Forces, for the open and avowed Purpose of wading knee-deep in Blood, through the Liberties of Britain; when the Protestant Religion is openly Subverted, and the British Subjects in *Canada*, deprived of those great Securities of their personal Liberty and Property, the **HABEAS CORPUS ACT**, and Trial by **JURIES**; when a suspending, and dispensing Power is assumed by the Crown; when Opposition, to the most cruel and wanton Acts of **LAWLESS POWER**, is deemed **REBELLION**; when the Senators, designed the Protectors of the People, are become their Destroyers; when the appointed Guardians of Public Freedom, are become Base Apostates, and Conspirators against the Liberties of Mankind; when neither **OATHS**, nor **CONSCIENCE**, can bind the Sovereign, or his Ministers; when both **PUBLIC** and **PRIVATE JUSTICE** is denied to a Subject, nay, to the whole Body of the People at Large; when our Lives are exposed to false Accusations, and our Persons to arbitrary Imprisonment, and heavy Fines; when the Judges before whom we are to stand upon Life and Death, and before whom all Cases concerning Liberty and Property, must be brought; too much devoted to the Will and Pleasure of the Crown, and Enemies to the natural Rights of Mankind; when Juries who are to decide our Fate, packed, bribed, or moddled, to the pernicious Designs of a wicked and detestable Ministry; when every Post, Civil, Naval, and Military; are filled by Northern Flatterers and their Adherents, by Men of no Principles; by Parasites, Pimps, Catmites, and the Advocates for Arbitrary Power; when the People can see nothing but Misery and Slavery before their Eyes; when this vast and mighty Empire, the Admiration and envy of the World, is, through Corruption and Villainy, falling into **RUINS**.

At such a juncture as this, and under those dreadful and alarming Circumstances of experienced, and impending Danger, it becomes the Duty of every Englishman, to stand Forth to defend his Life, his Liberty, and his Property, from Lawless Violence, and to save his Country from Perdition.

So highly did our Brave and Virtuous Ancestors, value and Esteem their Rights, Liberties, and Privileges, that they spared neither **BLOOD** nor **Treasure** in their Defence, when invaded, as they too often were, by some of our Kings, who, in the pursuit of Lawless Power, pulled down all the Fences of Liberty, and broke in, like the present Sovereign, upon the Constitution, so far, that the Lives, Liberties, and Properties, of the Subjects of this Realm, were Hourly in Danger, and many fell Sacrifices to Royal or ministerial Vengeance.

Then it was, that our generous Forefathers, nobly **ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES** in **DEFENCE** of their Inherent, and legal

legal Rights, and made an Offering of the best and choicest BLOOD in the Kingdom, to the Shrine of LIBERTY, that we, their Posterity, might be FREE and HAPPY. To them, and the glorious Struggles they made with Power, we owe all the Blessings we enjoy, and the English Constitution, our greatest Boast, and their greatest Glory.

It was in such Times as these, when our brave Progenitors behaved like Britons, with a true Patriot Zeal, with which almost every Breast was fired, they spurned the Yoke, and broke the Chains that were prepared for them, letting their King and his Minions know, they would not suffer him, nor them to destroy their Birthrights, and dispense with the known Laws of the Land, by which they were resolved to be governed, and not by his WILL, or any other LAWLESS POWER upon Earth.

Let us at this Time, in this Hour of imminent Danger, follow so bright and glorious an Example, by a well-timed, noble Resistance, to the present royal, and ministerial Plan, for SUBVERTING the Laws and Religion, and overturning the Constitution of the British Empire in England and America; a Resistance that will secure Freedom to Posterity, and immortal Honour to ourselves; the Field of GLORY is open before us; let us rouse from a State of Apathy, and exert ourselves in a Manner becoming of Englishmen, worthy of Men who love LIBERTY, and deserve to be FREE. Let us shew to the World, we are not to be enslaved by One, nor by Five Thousand Tyrants: for the Sons of CRUELTY, CORRUPTION, and DESPOTISM, will pursue their bloody Designs, with greater Vigour, and with all the unrelenting Malice of Barbarians, against our fellow Subjects in America, in Proportion as we are TAME and ACQUIESCING; and if once they can succeed, through our BASENESS and COWARDICE, the Sword will be immediately turned against us, the sacred Constitution of our Empire dissolved, and we shall fall DESPISED, UNLAMENTED, and DETESTED, into the same horrible Gulph of ARBITRARY POWER.

Let us take Advantage of the present Opportunity, while our Resentments boil high, while every English Breast is fired with Indignation against those who are the Authors of all our past and present Calamities, which now convulse the State to its CENTRE;—Let us by all proper, just, and legal Means, exemplary punish the Parricides, and avowed Enemies of Mankind;—Let neither private Acquaintance, nor personal Alliance, stand between us and our DUTY to our COUNTRY;—Let all who have a common Interest in the public Safety—join in common Measures to DEFEND the public Safety;—Let us pursue to Disgrace, Destruction, and even Death, all those who have brought this Ruin upon us, let them be ever so GREAT, or ever so MANY;—Let us stamp, and deep engrave in Characters legible

ble to all Europe at present, and to all Posterity hereafter, what Vengeance is due to **CRIMES**, which have no less Objects in View, than the **RUIN OF NATIONS**, and the **DESTRUCTION OF MILLIONS**;—Let us frustrate their present desperate, and wicked Attempt to destroy America, by joining with our injured fellow Subjects, and bravely striking, one **HONEST** and **BOLD** Stroke to destroy them—Nay, although the Designs of the Conspirators, should be laid deep as the Centre, although they should raise **HELL** itself, and should fetch Legions of Volataries from thence to avow their Proceedings, yet let us not leave the Pursuit till we have their **HEADS** and their **ESTATES**.

Hear Part of the Address of your injured, and oppressed fellow Subjects in America, to you, upon this melancholy Occasion, upon the dreadful Prospect of impending Ruin; then let every Englishman lay his Hand upon his Heart, and declare, whether he does not think they have been most **CRUELLY TREATED**, and whether he can in Justice, Conscience, and Humanity, draw the Sword against them; or whether he would not rather join with them, and endeavour to obtain a **DECISIVE VICTORY** over **TYRANNY**, or fall gloriously with the **LIBERTIES** of his Country. These are their Words.

“ **W H E N** a Nation, led to greatness by the Hand of Liberty, and possessed of all the Glory that Heroism, Munificence, and Humanity can bestow, descends to the ungrateful Talk of forging Chains for her Friends and Children, and instead of giving Support to Freedom, turns Advocate for Slavery and Oppression, there is Reason to suspect she has either ceased to be virtuous, or been extremely negligent in the Appointment of her Rulers.

“ In almost every Age, in repeated Conflicts, in long and bloody Wars, as well Civil as Foreign, against the many powerful Nations, against the open Assaults of Enemies, and the more dangerous Treachery of Friends, have the Inhabitants of your Island, your great and glorious Ancestors, maintained their Independance, and transmitted the Rights of Men and the Blessings of Liberty to you their Posterity.

“ Be not surprized therefore, that we, who are Descendants from the same common Ancestors; that we, whose Forefathers participated in all the Rights, the Liberties, and the Constitution, you so justly boast, and who have carefully conveyed the same fair Inheritance to us, guaranteed by the plighted Faith of Government, and the most solemn Compacts with British Sovereigns, should refuse to surrender them to Men who found their Claims on no Principles of Reason, and who prosecute them with a Design, that by having our Lives and Property in their Power, they may with the greater Facility **ENSLAVE YOU**.

“ The Cause of America is now the Object of universal Attention: it has at length become very serious. This unhappy Country has not only been oppressed but abused and misrepresented

“ presented ; and the Duty we owe ourselves and Posterity, to
 “ your Interest, and the general Welfare of the British Empire,
 “ leads us to address you on this very important Subject.

“ We call upon you yourselves, to witness our Loyalty and
 “ Attachment to the common Interest or the whole Empire: did
 “ we not, in the last War, add all the Strength of this vast Con-
 “ tinent to the Force which repelled our common Enemy? Did
 “ we not leave our Native Shores, and meet Dispute and Death,
 “ to promote the Success of the British Arms in Foreign Climates?
 “ Did you not thank us for our Zeal, and even Reimburse us
 “ large Sums of Money, which you confessed, we had advan-
 “ ced beyond our Proportion, and far beyond our Abilities?
 “ you did.

“ To what Causes, then, are we to attribute the sudden
 “ Change of Treatment, and that System of Slavery which was
 “ prepared for us at the restoration of Peace.

“ Let Justice and Humanity cease to be the Boast of your
 “ Nation! consult your History, examine your History, exa-
 “ mine your Records of former Transactions; nay turn to the
 “ Annals of the many arbitrary States and Kingdoms that sur-
 “ round you, and shew us a single Instance of Men being con-
 “ demned to suffer for imputed Crimes, unheard, unquestioned,
 “ and without even the specious Formality of a Trial ; and that
 “ too by Laws made expressly for the Purpose, and which had
 “ no Existence at the Time of the Fact committed. If it be
 “ difficult to reconcile those Proceedings to the Genius and Tem-
 “ per of your Laws and Constitution, the Task will become more
 “ arduous when we call upon our ministerial Enemies to justify,
 “ not only condemning Men untried, and by Hearsay, but in-
 “ volving the Innocent in one common Punishment with the
 “ Guilty, and for the Act of Thirty or Forty, to bring Poverty,
 “ Distress, and Calamity, on thirty thousand Souls, and those
 “ not your Enemies, but your Friends, Brethren, and Fellow-
 “ Subjects.

“ Admit that the Ministry, by the Powers of Britain, and
 “ the aid of our Roman Catholic Neighbours, should be able to
 “ carry the point of Taxation, and reduce us to a State of per-
 “ fect Humiliation and Slavery. Such an Enterprize would
 “ doubtless make some Addition to your national Debt, which
 “ already presses down your Liberties, and fills you with Pen-
 “ sioners and Placemen.—We presume, also, that your Com-
 “ merce will somewhat be diminished. However, suppose you
 “ should prove Victorious—in what Condition will you then be?
 “ What Advantages or what Laurels will you Reap from such a
 “ Conquest?

“ May not a Ministry with the same Armies enslave you—
 “ it may be said, you will cease to pay them—but remember
 “ the Taxes from America, the Wealth, and we may add,
 “ the Men, and particularly the Roman Catholics of this vast
 “ Continent, will then be in the Power of your Enemies—nor

“ will

“ will you have any Reason to expect, that after making Slaves
 “ of us, many among us shall refuse to assist in reducing you
 “ to the same abject State.

“ Do not treat this as chimerical—Know that in less than half
 “ a century, the quit Rents reserved to the Crown, from the
 “ numberless Grants of this vast Continent, will pour large
 “ Streams of Wealth into the Royal Coffers, and if to this be
 “ added the Power of Taxing America at Pleasure, the Crown
 “ will be rendered independent on you for Supplies, and will pos-
 “ sess more Treasure than may be necessary to purchase the
 “ *Remains of Liberty* in your Island.—In a Word, take Care
 “ that you do not fall into the Pit that is preparing for us.

“ We believe there is yet much VIRTUE, much JUSTICE
 “ and much public Spirit in the English Nation—To that Justice
 “ we now Appeal. You have been told that we are Seditious,
 “ impatient of Government, and desirous of Independency.
 “ be assured that these are not Facts, but Calumnies—Permit
 “ us to be as Free as yourselves, and we shall ever esteem a
 “ Union with you to be our greatest Glory and our greatest
 “ Happiness; we shall ever be ready to contribute all in our
 “ Power to the Welfare of the Empire—we shall consider
 “ your Enemies as our Enemies, and your Interest as our
 “ own.

“ But if you are deterred that your Ministers shall wan-
 “ tonly sport with the rights of Mankind—if neither the Voice
 “ of Justice, the Dictates of the Law, the Principles of the
 “ Constitution, or the Suggestions of Humanity can restrain
 “ your Hands from shedding HUMAN BLOOD in such an
 “ impious Cause, we must then tell you, that we never will sub-
 “ mit to be Hewers of Wood or Drawers of Water for any
 “ Ministry or Nation in the World.

“ The People of England will soon have an Opportunity of
 “ declaring their Sentiments concerning our Cause. In their
 “ Piety, Generosity, and good Sense, we repose high Confi-
 “ dence; and cannot upon a Review of past Events, be per-
 “ suaded that they, the Defenders of true Religion, and the Af-
 “ fectors of the Rights of Mankind, will take Part against their
 “ affectionate Protestant Brethren in the Colonies, in Favour of
 “ *our open, and their own secret Enemies*, whose Intrigues, for se-
 “ veral Years past, have been wholly exercised in sapping the
 “ Foundations of civil and religious Liberty.”